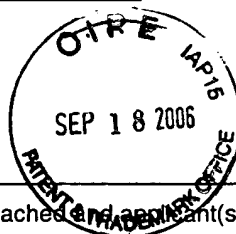


**AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL****PATENT**

Application No.: 10/783,279  
Filing Date: February 19, 2004  
First Named Inventor: Desmond Toh Onn Hii  
Examiner's Name: Anand Shashikant Rao  
Art Unit: 2621  
Attorney Docket No.: 006404.P017



- ☐ An Amendment After Final Action (37 CFR 1.116) is attached and applicant(s) request expedited action.
- ☒ Charge any fee not covered by any check submitted to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.
- ☒ Applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, for any concurrent or future reply to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.
- ☐ Applicant(s) claim small entity status (37 CFR 1.27).

**ATTACHMENTS**

- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Amendment/Response with respect to Office Action
- ☐ Amendment/Response After Final Action (37 CFR 1.116) (reminder: consider filing a Notice of Appeal)
- ☐ Notice of Appeal
- ☐ RCE (Request for Continued Examination)
- ☐ Supplemental Declaration
- ☐ Terminal Disclaimer (reminder: if executed by an attorney, the attorney must be properly of record)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- ☐ Copies of IDS citations
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☒ Fee Transmittal Document (that includes a fee calculation based on the type and number of claims)
- ☐ Cross-Reference to Related Application(s)
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document
- ☒ Other: Replacement Drawings - Sheets 1-3
- ☒ Other: Copy of International Preliminary Report on Patentability
- ☐ Check(s)
- ☒ Postcard (Return Receipt)

**SUBMITTED BY:**

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP  
TYPED OR PRINTED NAME: Stephen M. De Klerk  
SIGNATURE: [Signature]  
REG. NO.: 46,503  
DATE: September 14, 2006  
ADDRESS: 12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025  
TELEPHONE NO.: (408) 720-8300

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL (if applicable)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria Virginia, 22313-1450 on:

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September 14, 2006

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Express Mail Label No. (if applicable): N/A**Send to:**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450

(10/14/03)

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**  
**PCT**  
**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**  
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference<br><b>20500248KC</b>   | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span><b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b></span> <span>See Form PCT/IPEA/416</span> </div> |  |
| International application No.<br><b>PCT/SG2005/000044</b>  | International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> )<br><b>17 February 2005</b>  | Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> )<br><b>19 February 2004</b> |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC<br><br>Int. Cl. <b>G03B 37/04 (2006.01) H04N 5/247 (2006.01)</b><br><b>G06T 3/00 (2006.01) H04N 5/262 (2006.01)</b> |   |  |
| Applicant<br><b>CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY LTD et al</b>  |   |  |

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
- a. ☒ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 3 sheets, as follows:
- ☒ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).  
☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
- b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
- |                                     |              |   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I    | Basis of the report   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. II   | Priority  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. III  | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. IV   | Lack of unity of invention  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V    | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VI   | Certain documents cited   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VII  | Certain defects in the international application  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Date of submission of the demand<br><b>9 December 2005</b>  | Date of completion of this report<br><b>10 March 2006</b>                      |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU<br><b>AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE</b><br><b>PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA</b><br>E-mail address: <b>pct@ipaustalia.gov.au</b><br>Facsimile No. <b>(02) 6285 3929</b> | Authorized Officer<br><br><b>S KAUL</b><br>Telephone No. <b>(02) 6283 2182</b> |

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/SG2005/000044

## Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on:

- ☒ The international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ A translation of the international application into \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-8 as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_ with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- pages\* received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_ with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ the claims:
- pages as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- claims 1-15 received by this Authority on 9 December 2005 with the letter of same date
- pages\* received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_ with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ the drawings:
- pages 1/4-4/4 as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_ with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- pages\* received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_ with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/SG2005/000044

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. Statement

|                               |             |     |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----|
| Novelty (N)                   | Claims 1-15 | YES |
|                               | Claims      | NO  |
| Inventive step (IS)           | Claims 1-15 | YES |
|                               | Claims      | NO  |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims 1-15 | YES |
|                               | Claims      | NO  |

## 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

CLAIMS 1-15

None of the citations in the search report, individually or in combination, disclose the features of the claims. Furthermore, none of the distinguishing features over prior art would either be obvious to a person skilled in the art or would merely amount to adding common general knowledge. The claims are, therefore, novel and inventive.

The Claims:

1. A method for providing a combined image from a plurality of images, each image produced by one of a plurality of cameras each having an image system for taking an image  
5 of the plurality of images, the method including:  
generating the plurality of images in each of the plurality of cameras;  
stitching the plurality of images to form the combined image using a stitcher disguised as a virtual camera; and  
selecting a presentation style for the combined image depending on a desired detail  
10 for the combined image,  
wherein the presentation style is selected from the group comprising: letterbox, pan/scan and horizontal compression.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein stitching is by warping each of the plurality of images  
15 into an intermediate co-ordinate, and stitching the plurality of images into the combined image using a two-dimensional search.
3. The method of claim 1, further including performing overlap calculations to determine overlap regions of the plurality of images, the overlap calculation being used for all  
20 subsequent pluralities of images from the plurality of cameras.
4. The method of claim 3, further including:  
using overlap calculations to perform colour correction in the plurality of images; and  
maintaining the colour correction for all subsequent pluralities of images from the  
25 plurality of cameras.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the combined image is of a type selected from the group comprising: video and still.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the image from each of the plurality of cameras is of a type selected from the group comprising: video and still.
7. An apparatus for producing a combined image, including:  
5 a plurality of cameras each having an image system;  
a stitcher for performing a stitching operation on a plurality of images to produce the combined image, each of the plurality of images being produced by one of the plurality of cameras;  
the stitcher being disguised as a virtual camera; and  
10 a selector for selecting a presentation style for the combined image depending on a desired detail for the combined image,  
wherein the presentation style is selected from the group comprising: letterbox, pan/scan and horizontal compression.
- 15 8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein each camera includes buffer memory.
9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the plurality of cameras is in a common body.
10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the plurality of cameras is in separate bodies.
- 20 11. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein stitching is by warping each of the plurality of images into an intermediate co-ordinate, and stitching the plurality of images into the combined image using a two-dimensional search.
- 25 12. The apparatus of claim 7, further including means for performing overlap calculations to determine overlap regions of the plurality of images, the overlap calculation being used for all subsequent pluralities of images from the plurality of cameras.
13. The apparatus of claim 12, further including:

means for using overlap calculations to perform colour correction in the plurality of images; and

means for maintaining the colour correction for all subsequent pluralities of images from the plurality of cameras.

5

14. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the combined image is of a type selected from the group comprising: video and still.

15. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the image from each of the plurality of cameras is  
10 of a type selected from the group comprising: video and still.